GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4313
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC, which monitors academic standards in universities across the country has itself been put on the dock for the lack of academic expertise by the Expenditure Reforms Commission that has been set up by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of shortcomings highlighted by the ERC in its report about the UGC;

(c) the details of suggestions made by the ERC; and

(d) the extent to which the Government have agreed to implement the suggestions of ERC in UGC?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)
(a): Yes Sir. In this respect, the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in its recent report has, inter alia, made the following observations:
`One of the major weaknesses in the structure of UGC secretariat is that there is very little in-house academic expertise`.
(b)&(c): The major shortcomings highlighted and the recommendations made by the ERC in its recent report, inter alia, are :
(i) there is a need to develop in-house academic expertise in the UGC;
(ii) the responsibility for determination and disbursement of maintenance grant to Delhi Colleges should be transferred along with the funds to the appropriate agency designated by the State Govt. of Delhi;
(iii) there is a need to review a large number of programmes initiated by UGC so as to ensure that the meager funds available with the UGC are not thinly spread over a large number of activities,
(iv) UGC should seek to enhance the resources to be allocated for 'research'out of the total funds and find better means to optimally utilize these funds by devising result-oriented approach, and
(v) UGC should take steps to promote the quality in the universities and colleges and establish linkages between the accreditation of the institutions with the release of the grants, etc.
(d): Necessary action has been initiated by the UGC, wherever possible.